



DESCHUTES NATIONAL FOREST 2018-2019



LISTENING AND WORKING WITH COMMUNITIES

As stewards of this amazing landscape called the Deschutes National Forest, we take our responsibility to restore and maintain the national forest lands while providing people access to outstanding recreation and learning opportunities and protecting our communities' watersheds and infrastructure from wildfire very seriously.

On the Deschutes National Forest, we listen to our community members and local leadership to develop common understandings of the issues we face and a common vision for these iconic Central Oregon public lands. As public servants we are honored to manage these public lands for the benefit of all and for future generations. Join all of us as stewards of this incredible place, we call home.



TO LEAVE A HEALTHY FOREST FOR THE FUTURE

RESTORING ECOSYSTEMS



Deschutes Collaborative Forest Project

For the past nine years, the Deschutes National Forest has worked with a diverse range of stakeholders on the Deschutes Collaborative Forest Project (DCFP) to increase forest and watershed restoration and to improve the health of the forests in Deschutes County. In addition, the goal of the DCFP is to lower the threat of unnaturally large wildfires across more than 250,000 acres of the Deschutes National Forest. Through the work with the DCFP, the Deschutes National Forest has successfully done projects like the Sisters Area Forest Restoration and West Bend projects, which alone are resulting in over 50,000 acres of forest restoration and hazardous fuel reduction.

Greater La Pine Cohesive Strategy Restoration Project

Beginning in 2016 and ending in 2018, the Deschutes National Forest and the Natural Resources Conservation District (NRCS) implemented a joint project called the Greater La Pine Basin Cohesive Strategy Project. The project invested \$4.2 million into hazardous fuel reduction work on both private and public lands. The Forest Service used the funding to treat approximately 10,000 acres within the project area. Major partners in the project, in addition to the NRCS, included the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF), Deschutes County, Klamath County, Walker Range Fire Patrol Association and Project Wildfire.



Ryan Ranch Restoration

This past year the Deschutes National Forest and other partners connected the Deschutes River with its floodplain at Ryan Ranch and restored the river's eroding riverbank. Making the connection created 65-acres of freshwater marshland, which provides renewed habitat for many wetland dependent wildlife and plants, including the threatened Oregon spotted frog. Youth crews recently replanted the restored floodplain with native sedges to increase restoration of the native ecosystem.

Central Cascades Wilderness Strategies Project

After two years of analysis and public engagement the Deschutes and Willamette National Forests issued a decision to manage day-use entry at 19 of 79 trailheads and all overnight use within the Mt. Jefferson, Mt. Washington and Three Sisters wildernesses beginning the summer of 2020. The decision responds to substantial visitation increases in those wildernesses between 2012 and 2016. For example, visitation to the Three Sisters Wilderness increased more than 180 percent, with some trailheads experiencing increases between 300 and 500 percent. Increased visitation caused damage to high-elevation riparian and meadow vegetation through overcrowding, overnight camping, human and dog waste, trail bed expansion and trail braiding as well as invasive species transport.



CARING FOR THE FUTURE

WORKING WITH OUR COMMUNITIES



Deschutes Trails Coalition

The Deschutes Trails Coalition (DTC) formed in 2017. The DTC brought together local and regional recreation stakeholders who wanted to provide community leadership and support to the Forest Service to address escalating challenges to the Deschutes National Forest's trail system. The purpose of the DTC is to ensure a future of sustainable trails in Central Oregon. The DTC includes representatives from the conservation, business, tourism, and trail-user communities who work together to make recommendations to envision and create a sustainable trail system on the Deschutes National Forest.

High Desert Museum Prescribed Fire

After a year of careful planning, the Deschutes National Forest and the High Desert Museum successfully completed a 121-acre mixed ownership prescribed fire that included 47 acres of Forest Service managed land and 74 acres of High Desert Museum owned property. The project improved defensible space around the museum and provides an ongoing educational opportunity for the public to learn about fire-adapted ecosystems. The Oregon Department of Forestry, the Oregon Department of Transportation, the City of Bend Fire Department and the Nature Conservancy assisted in the burn.



Rim Butte OHV Trails

The Deschutes County 4 Wheelers wanted to support the Forest Service in meeting the goal of 60-miles of technical trail in the Forest Service's Travel Management Plan for Central Oregon. Through volunteer hours as well as grants and donations the group partnered with the Deschutes National Forest to develop the 14-mile Rim Butte OHV Trails project. The new trail is 20 miles east of La Pine in the southwest corner of the East Fort Rock OHV Area. The trail connects with shared use and single-track trails and two-track road to allow people with different motorized interests to recreate together.

PUBLIC SERVICE AND CONSERVATION EDUCATION

Volunteers

The Deschutes National Forest the second largest volunteer program in the National Forest System. In 2018, 2,566 volunteers contributed 99,420 hours for a total value of volunteer service of over \$2.4 million.

Youth Crews

During 2018, 125 youth ages 16-19 earned money, learned job skills and contributed to the stewardship of the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests and Crooked River National Grassland four youth corps programs. In total, these programs contributed 24,000 hours of labor.

Discover Your Forest

During 2018 Discover Your Forest served over 11,600 kids through free outdoor school programs and hosted 22 internships on the Deschutes and Ochoco NF, paying those interns over \$65,000 in stipends.

Discover Your Forest raised \$400,000 to support the Deschutes and Ochoco NFs and reached over 350,000 visitors through interpretive programs.



Children's Forest of Central Oregon

- 16,875 Students attending field trips.
- 198 Field trips funded
- 36 teachers participating in professional development workshops.
- 1,468 participants in family programs.
- 1,800 attendees at the Discover Nature Festival.
- 12 young adults doing paid internships in natural resource and outdoor education.



SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITIES

Redmond Air Center

The Redmond Air Center (RAC) is a major contributor to the Central Oregon economy with overall expenditures exceeding \$11 million. The Redmond Interagency Cache supports firefighting resources in Oregon and Washington as well as across the nation. In 2018, the Redmond Cache supported 284 incidents, not including prescribed fire, and distributed over \$41.6 million dollars worth of goods to these incidents with the support of 78 temporary personnel. Staff with RAC hosted 52 tours of the facilities for students and welcomed over 6,500 visitors to the site.



La Pine Outdoor Adventure Day

Every year the Crescent Ranger District partners with the Bend-La Pine School District, Central Oregon Children's Forest, and Oregon State Parks to put on the La Pine Outdoor Adventure Day for about 800 students in La Pine, Gilchrist, Crescent and the surrounding home-schooling communities from kindergarten to fifth grade. Archaeologists, wildlife and fish biologists, firefighters, botanists and recreation specialists staff 30 educational stations for children to visit and learn about wildlife, fish, plants, cultural resources, outdoor recreation and safety, art, water, fire and recycling.

Milli Fire Recovery

The Milli Fire started in early August 2017. Ultimately, the fire burned over 24,000 acres. Following the fire, Sisters Ranger District employees began working to recover the forest and get impacted infrastructure repaired. Employees planted nearly 4,000 acres and addressed public safety issues that had caused the Black Crater Trail to close, which allowed the trail to open much sooner than expected. Finally, employees quickly did the planning and implementation work to remove thousands of burned hazard trees along Highway 242, which allowed the highway to reopen only a year after the fire. In addition, the removal of the hazard trees allowed 2.2 million board feet of timber to be sold for wood products.



AND OUR ECONOMY

Forest Products

In 2018, the Deschutes National Forest sold 44 million board feet of timber from national forest lands for a total value of \$3.1 million. The Deschutes National Forest also sold almost 5 million board feet of firewood for a total value of over \$140,000.

In addition, other forest products like mushrooms, post and poles, Christmas trees and pine cones were sold.

Recreation

According to Travel Oregon, in 2018, tourism in Central Oregon contributed \$961 million to the local economy, with 70% of those visitor days spent doing outdoor recreation, primarily on the Deschutes National Forest. Data from the Forest Service's National Visitor Use Monitoring data collected last year, indicates recreational visits on the forest went from approximately 1.6 million visits a year in 2013 to 3.3 million visits per year in 2018.

Employment

According to Economic Development for Central Oregon (EDCO), Bend has one of the highest job growth rates in the country and much of that is attributed to the expansion of the outdoor industry in Central Oregon. In addition, to contributing to the growth of the outdoor recreation industry, the Deschutes National Forest employs approximately 375 full-time employees and 200 part-time employees doing a wide range of jobs.